

Repeal of Law Needed to Get Strong Defense Act

Truman Letters Run 7 to 1 in Favor of Tight Controls

Washington—Congress is pleading for mail from constituents urging stronger price and rent controls in the Defense Production Act which must be passed by June 30.

The situation is without precedent. The New York Times headlined its story on extension of the Defense Production Act that "more extension of the law likely unless Truman plan develops first of mail."

The White House reported that telegrams, letters and cards received since President Truman's appeal for a strong Defense Production Act was running 7 to 1 in favor of stronger controls. Mr. Truman hoped a larger mail was piling in on congressmen but there were few signs that it was developing.

The New York Times said in a Washington dispatch:

"Congressional leaders banked heavily on a flood of mail, prompted by President Truman's nationwide appeal for stronger controls, to help speed committee action on the new Defense Production bill."

"Barring such public response, it was likely that sentiment in Congress would more extension of the present law, due to expire June 30, would grow to a slow but steady pace."

"Senator Burnet R. Maybank, the Banking and Currency chairman, was one of the congressional leaders expressing an almost fervent hope that all 'fencing' Congress in the next few days would leave no doubt that the people wanted tightened controls."

All price and wage controls will expire June 30 unless Congress acts. It is expected that the old existing act is extended.

AFL President William Green has appealed to all AFL affiliates to urge members to write their congressmen and senators for a strong law that will really curb prices and rents, provide fair and equitable wage stabilization.

Pa., Ky. Follow Through on DPA

Washington—State Federations of Labor in Pennsylvania and Kentucky were the first to report back to AFL President William Green that they followed through on his plea for nationwide support for passage of a strong Defense Production Act by June 30.

President Green asked all state federations and central labor bodies to make enactment of a strong price and rent control act by June 30 their item of business.

President James L. McDewitt of Pennsylvania asked all affiliated organizations in that state to write or urge their congressmen and Senators Edward Martin and James Duff to support a strengthened DPA.

Secretary-Treasurer Edward H. Weyer of Kentucky urged similar action in that state. He mailed a copy of letters sent to Senators Earle C. Clements and Thomas Underwood urging support of amendments to the Defense Production Act recommended by the AFL.

Postal Transort Re-Elects Thomas

Washington—The AFL National Postal Transort Association re-elected W. M. Thomas president for another 2-year term.

In a referendum, members also re-elected for a 2-year term Omar M. McDewitt, president; James L. McDewitt, Portsmouth, N. H., secretary; and J. L. Reilly, industrial secretary.

The convention will be held Oct. 15 at Boston.



FLIGHT ATTENDANT UNION SOLOS—Chicago—The AFL Air Line Stewards and Stewardesses Association, representing 3,500 employees of 24 airlines, elected at its first convention, 1. R. Bush, Chicago, TWA, treasurer; Mary Alice Koon, Washington, Capital, president; Joe Oliver, Miami, Eastern, 1st vice president; Irene Eastin, San Francisco, United, secretary.

1200 AFL Unionists Ask Congressmen Hike Federal Workers 17 Percent

Washington—More than 1,200 representatives of 24 AFL unions in U. S. Government service called on their congressmen in person to urge passage of a liberal pay raise for 1,250,000 federal workers throughout the country.

The bulk of the visitors from across the nation came from the National Federation of Postoffice Clerks and American Federation of Government Employees.

The AFL unions, making up the

Government Employees Council, are supporting a 17 percent pay raise for postal and classified workers who haven't had an increase since 1949.

The Civil Service Commission has recommended a 6.9 percent pay raise. Government stabilization agencies said the raise may go the limit of 10 percent or more.

The Washington visit was aimed at getting prompt action on a pay measure government workers far behind the cost of living increase since 1949.

Maybank, New York Congressmen Asked to Vote Strong Defense Law

New York—The Liberal Party urged Sen. Burnet R. Maybank and members of the New York congressional delegation to support a 1951 Defense Production which will contain provisions for the tightest kind of price and rent controls.

The appeal was sent over the signature of Mary Lewis, secretary-treasurer AFL United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers and chairman of the national legislative committee of the Liberal Party.

A copy went to Sen. Irving Ives of New York, who reported that he had received only 21 letters on the subject of controls since President Truman's speech urging a stronger Defense Production Act to replace the one expiring on June 30.

Senator Ives said 19 urged continued controls. Sen. Herbert H. Lehman previously told the nation faced disaster unless a stronger Defense Production Act is passed.

Senator Maybank is chairman of the joint committee on defense production.

The weaknesses that characterized the 1950 Defense Production Act which left the road open to the inflation we are now experiencing must be corrected in the new act, the Liberal Party said.

Controls must be strengthened all down the line. Provisions for tight effective rent control must be included in the measure."

PICK WINNERS

Bronxville, N. Y.—Two AFL members were awarded Kunkin College Labor Scholarships to study for a year at Oxford University, England, beginning next September.

They are Edward Banyil, Allentown, Pa., business agent AFL International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Neal Moore, Tepeka, Kan., member AFL International Brotherhood of Bookbinders.

The third scholarship was awarded to Eileen Kerr, Linden, N. J., member CIO Communications Workers of America.

Green Tells New York AFL People Will Call Congress to Account

Uphold 40-Hour Week Standard

Washington—If the National Labor-Management Policy Committee has approved a policy statement which calls for no change in the provisions for payment of overtime as provided for in the Fair Labor Standards and Public Contracts Acts. The policy statement will be made public later, it is expected.

The committee acted June 14 at its second meeting, held under the joint chairmanship of Dr. Arthur Flemming of the Office of Defense Mobilization and Dr. Frank P. Graham, U. S. Labor Department's Defense Manpower Administrator.

Machinists Visit Congress on Homes

Washington—Delegations from AFL International Association of Machinists lodges at aircraft centers across the nation came here to bring before price and wage controls in the interest of quick action to provide more housing.

The I. A. M. housing drive began with a delegation from the I. A. M. lodge #146. The delegation was the first to arrive around I. A. M. President Hayes asked congress for quick action on housing around aircraft centers.

Unless action is taken immediately to provide adequate housing in the aircraft centers, we will be unable to provide sufficient manpower to meet the expanding production schedules," Mr. Hayes wrote to members of the House Banking and Currency Committee.

The committee has been sitting on housing legislation.

Mr. Hayes pointed out that I. A. M. represents 70 percent of the employees in the aircraft industry. I. A. M. teams from New Jersey, New York, Kansas, Oklahoma, California and Washington were also expected to back the plea for fast action on defense housing.

GERMANY IN ILO

Geneva.—The Federal Republic of Germany was admitted to membership in the International Labor Organization by an overwhelming vote.

The delegations approving the admission were Czechoslovakia, Israel and Poland.

The decision resulted to 64 the total number of states members of the ILO.

Buffalo, N. Y.—AFL President William Green told the New York State Federation of Labor's 88th convention that if Congress disregards labor's pleas for a strong Defense Production Act "we must carry the fight to the people so that Congress may be called to account before the bar of public opinion."

Mr. Green said the free peoples of the world can defeat the Communist totalitarianism. He said the United States must gear its economy for a long pull with a big standing army and to render economic aid to our allies.

"The next few days are a crucial period in our broad effort to secure enactment of a strong defense program," Mr. Green said. The present weak Defense Production Act governing wage and price controls will expire on June 30.

Mr. Green called on all AFL affiliates to make enactment of a strong defense law their item of business. He said in part:

"If the business and real estate lobbies, which are now hard at work, have their way, the law which is already ready in their favor—will be so severely emasculated that the net result will be right controls over wages, with only token controls over prices."

"If we are to have real anti-inflation program, the Defense Production Act must be amended to insure more effective enforcement; control over prices; control over the cost of consumers' goods; dollars-and-cents ceiling prices; stronger rent controls; and changes in the credit restrictions provisions on lower and middle income groups."

"During the days immediately after this act should be a major item of business at every gathering of trade unionists. Our members must be made to realize the importance of making known their views on this question to their representatives in Congress. If, after such action, our pleas are disregarded, we must take the fight to the people, so that Congress may be called to account before the bar of public opinion."

Vigilance Urged On Hostile Laws At State Levels

Buffalo, N. Y.—States are the focal point of the employer drive for more and broader anti-labor laws, AFL President William Green said in a speech at the New York State Federation of Labor's 88th convention.

"The state laws are a threat to the standards and freedoms of workers everywhere, for they are a special threat directed against all of us," he said. "They offer foreboding trends which beckon to their repeal."

"In our concentration upon national legislation, we cannot afford to neglect the areas of state and local government. State legislatures have long been a fertile ground for anti-labor legislation, even when they have been held in check on the national level."

"Hostile employer groups have only too often found the members of state and local governing bodies completely amenable to their will. As bad as the Taft-Hartley Act is, there still exists on the state levels of many states laws which are even more vicious and repressive."

Mr. Green urged more vigilance and greater action in the economic and political spheres at national, state and local levels.

FATHER TO FATHER—Washington—Secretary of Labor Harold J. Tobin (left), a father himself, and President John O'Hara of AFL Tobacco Workers International Union (center) welcome Horace J. Traylor, Richmond, Va., member of the Philip Morris cigarette plant, to the "Worker Father of the Year," visited Washington and New York.

AFL Nixes Tax Hike On Low Incomes

New York.—AFL Vice President Matthew Woll, chairman AFL Tax Committee, asked House Ways and Means Committee members not to increase personal income tax on net income below \$2,000.

He sent letters expressing AFL opposition to these proposals tentatively approved in committee to Chairman Robert L. Doughton and Rep. Hal Holmes.

The committee voted to increase personal income taxes 124 percent across the board and to boost the excise taxes on cigarettes, gasoline, beer and other cost of living items.

"Any action such as it is reported your committee is considering to increase the personal income tax on net income below \$2,000, would be an unnecessary and inequitable at this time," Mr. Woll wrote Mr. Doughton.

"Moreover we believe the proposed increases in excise taxes will actually serve to reinforce rather than check inflationary forces now operating."

In his letter to Mr. Doughton, Mr. Woll reiterated the AFL view given at public hearings on the tax measure last February. The AFL held the more than \$12 billion can be raised from other sources "without endangering the economy or placing any burden on the low income groups."

Mr. Woll asked the committee to revise its proposed tax law to ease the burden on low income tax payers.

Merger of 2 Unions Effective July 1

Kansas City, Kans.—Consolidation of the membership rolls becomes effective July 1 for the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers.

The announcement was made by Secretary-Treasurer William J. Buckley of the Brotherhood of Bookbinders and President John Pelkoff of the Brotherhood of Blacksmiths.

The Blacksmiths convention in May voted to merge with the Bookbinders, the consolidation to be consummated at a Convention in June 1953.

The AFL Executive Council approved the merger, the official record has been adopted, and the two brotherhoods have begun their amalgamated life.

Blacksmith members will be blanketed in under the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders insurance policy, the jurisdiction of work of the two crafts will be maintained and respected, all collective bargaining agreements will continue unimpaired.

Officers of the two brotherhoods sent a 15-point statement of the plan of amalgamation and operation to every member of both unions.

Green Cals Puerto Rican Vote For Constitution 'Progressive Step'

Washington.—AFL President William Green called the vote by Puerto Rico citizens on June 4 for framing their own constitution "a progressive step in the right direction."

He sent his commendations to Francisco Paz Granella, president legislative committee, Puerto Rico Free Federation of Workmen, San Juan, P. R. The Puerto Rican Federation is affiliated to the AFL. The AFL supported the constitutional proposal.

In his report to Mr. Green, Mr. Granella said:

"I am happy to report to you that the referendum was held in an orderly and democratic manner. Not a slight breath of the peace was registered, and Puerto Rico set an ample in the performance of its democratic functions."

"In order that you may appreciate the interest shown by our people in this referendum, I inform you that out of 777,891 registered voters, 511,795 went to the polls, 487,421 voted in favor of the right for Puerto Rico to make its own Constitution, and 119,150 voted against it. We will readily see, the idea succeeded by an overwhelming majority."

"Unquestionably, this has been one

United Labor Studies Daily Paper Proposal

Washington.—The United Labor Policy Committee appointed a committee to study the proposal for establishing a daily newspaper along the lines of "The National Reporter," issued by Pittsburgh AFL and CIO unions as a sample after the strike against Pittsburgh dailies last year.

The committee consists of AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany; CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey; AFL Manhattan District President Al J. Hayes; and A. E. Lyon, executive secretary Railway Labor Employees Association.

South Dakota AFL Hits Congressmen For Anti-Unionism

Watertown, S. D.—The South Dakota State Federation of Labor's 20th annual convention sharply criticized the state's delegation in Congress and Gov. Sigurd Anderson for their anti-unionism.

President Albert J. Maag, Huron, and Secretary-Treasurer McDonald, Sioux Falls, captured the governor for his hostile attitude toward organization of workers at the South Dakota state centennial in Rapid City.

Both officials pointed out that in spite of a Republican party state platform recognizing the right of labor to organize, bargain collectively and to strike, Governor Anderson and the State Cement Commission, which he heads, refused to recognize the union right in the defense program.

Glen Slaughter, representing Labor's League for Political Education, said the convention's list of labor voting records are "terrible" of South Dakota Senators Mark Murray, James C. Case, and Reps. Harold O. Love and E. J. Berry.

The convention and biennial election of officers will be held in 1952 in Sioux Falls.

TLC HISTORY

Ottawa, Canada.—The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has just published "An Historical Review, 1872-1950," of the achievements of the organization.

It contains the constitution of the TLC and a summary of policies. Copies at 10 cents each are available from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, 172 McLaren St., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

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of the most instructive, educational, civic campaigns ever held in Puerto Rico. It was the leadership of Governor Luis Munoz Marin, who did not lose any opportunity to rally the people, to the fact that they might understand the real significance of the law of Congress. In this task he was assisted by Resident Commissioner Dr. Ferrnol, and other political, labor and industrial leaders, regardless of partisan lines.

"It is my sincere opinion that with the approval by the people of the law of Congress, the people of Puerto Rico have taken a step in the right direction. In this task he was assisted by Resident Commissioner Dr. Ferrnol, and other political, labor and industrial leaders, regardless of partisan lines."

TELLING AFL STORY.—Chicago.—Mrs. Mary Erb (left), of AFL staff, passes out souvenir rulers at AFL exhibit at Union Industries Show to spectators as part of program telling AFL support for high wages, public schools and union-made goods and services. More than 100,000 pieces of literature and 52,000 rulers were distributed.

New Jersey AFL Asks Defense Act That Enforces Price Ceilings

Atlantic City, N. J.—The New Jersey State Federation of Labor's 73rd annual convention urged Congress to extend the Defense Production Act beyond its June 30 expiration date and strengthen it to:

1. Simplify price ceilings, clearly specified and fully enforced, in order to protect the worker and consumer.

2. Provide for equality of sacrifice in the defense program.

Plans for continuing the expansion program of the State Federation of Labor and for strengthening its legislative and political education endeavor, on both State and national levels, were made.

President Louis P. Marcantone, Trenton, was unanimously re-elected for his 17th consecutive term and Secretary-Treasurer Vincent J. Murphy, Newark, for his 18th consecutive term for a two-year period.

Three vice presidents, unanimously returned for a year: First, Michael P. Condon, Orange; second, William Carter, Summit, and third, Sadie Reich, Newark.

District vice presidents unanimously re-elected for a one-year term were the following: Windford C. Chasner, Jersey City; Frank Truitt, Englewood; Thomas V. Green and William F. Purcell, both of Newark; Irving Kaplan, Paterson; Sherman G. Kinner, Union; Peter Pulone, Trenton; Olga Morana, Perth Amboy; Charles Mims, Camden; Melvin Mohr, Millville.

More than 125 resolutions concerned with trade union matters, state and national legislation, welfare projects and advancement of craft interests, as

well as educational and political endeavor were acted upon by the delegates.

The convention favored continued extension of Federal Rent Control, enactment of National Health Insurance and fair employment practice laws. It urged Congress restore appropriations for low rent public housing in line with the program for more such housing for the workers of the country as well as for the economic welfare of the building trades.

The delegates also asked for a restoration of normal mail delivery service and favored a proposed wage increase for postal employees. They urged speedy repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law.

In line with state legislation, the delegates approved resolutions pro-claiming the right of workers to a rightful share in the wealth which they produce. They urged that unemployment compensation and temporary disability benefits be increased to \$40 per week, and insisted that Governor Driscoll call a special session of the legislature to have this and other vital labor legislation acted upon.

FOODS UP

Washington.—Retail food prices remained about the same from May 15 to May 28.

However, based on an 8-city survey, the retail food price index for May 28 is estimated to be 22.5, approximately 11 percent higher than in June 1950 (pre-Korea).

Walinsky Heads Merged Handbag, Pocketbook Union

Atlantic City, N. J.—Merger of the AFL International Handbag, Luggage, Belt and Novelty Workers and the Independent Pocketbook Workers Union of New York was ratified at a special unity convention.

The 265 delegates elected Ossip Walinsky president. The new president was executive director of a Handbag Pocketbook Workers Union of New York and affiliates which merged officially with the International Handbag, Luggage, Belt and Novelty Workers Union at the convention. Mrs. Walinsky succeeds Jack Wieselberg of New York who was president of the international for the last two years.

Norman Zukowsky, Newburgh, N. Y., was re-elected secretary-treasurer by acclamation; Morris Fuchs, Newark, executive vice president; Charles Feinstein, Philip Laurence and Benjamin Feldman, all of New York, and Edward Weiss, of Hudson, N. Y., vice presidents.

Members on the AFL negotiating committee on the merger were David Dubinsky, Matthew Woll, AFL vice president, and James J. McGuire, secretary-treasurer Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York.

President William Green, urged the merger as an event of wide significance. He said in part:

"For myself, I am glad to see you here and those whom you represent, this is a day of fulfillment. Your long and hard hopes have been met that I might eventually be called upon to perform the duty of the AFL."

"The significance of this occasion extends beyond the confines of the particular union issues here involved. To workers at large, in every industry, it offers another practical demonstration of the fact that the interests which they share in common are—and always will be—stronger than the differences which separate them."

"International division is a standing barrier to the progress of the labor movement. Almost by definition, the strength of the labor movement is measured by the degree of unity among its members. The organization and union action are the only means by which workers can ever hope to achieve the goals of a more equitable share in the wealth which they produce."

"That is why we say that the primary task for labor is to organize the unorganized, to bring the unorganized into the ranks, in which their common interests lie. That is why one of the basic principles of the American Federation of Labor is that there can be no recognized union in any organizational field."

Mr. Dubinsky, president International Ladies Garment Workers Union, praised the delegates for their show of unity and stated that the combined resources of both unions will enable the workers to march forward to great economic achievements.

Housewives Break Cattlemen's Strike

New York.—The New York Times reported that housewives' boycott of high-priced meat products in the hotbed strike being waged by a section of the country's cattle producers.

Housewives are buying eggs, poultry and significant quantities of beef. Times said.

Cattle shipments to the major markets began rising. Meanwhile representatives of the nation's meat packers told the Joint Congressional Committee on Defense Production that beef farmers had gone on a strike against Office of Price Administration controls. The meat packers warned the committee that price controls would greatly reduce meat production.

The AFL Executive Council said at its meeting in Atlantic City that the Government makes the beef ceilings the whole attempt to control prices. Inflation will be the result, he said. Rep. Emanuel Celler, New York, said the government is trying to be seized and operated by the government to break the beef strike by producers. Other speakers said the boycott of beef by housewives, such as the New York Times, is working successfully in New York.

AFL GREETES CUBAN LABOR.—Havana, Cuba.—Serrano Romald (left), AFL Latin American representative, carried AFL greetings to 7th convention Cuban Confederation of Labor in message from Secretary-Treasurer George Meany. Response was made by Convention Vice Chairman Collada (right).

Building Trades Pick 4 Members Of WSB Pay Panel

ORNBURN PORTRAIT PRESENTED.—Chicago.—Raymond F. Leheney (right), director AFL Union Industries Show, accepts from Paul R. Ornburn portrait of latter's late father, I. M. "Dick" Ornburn, founder of the show and Mr. Leheney's predecessor as executive secretary AFL Union Label Trades Department. Photo will be hung in department headquarters.